

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 9-12 have been amended.

In the Office Action, claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 9-12 have been amended to recite a computer readable recording medium instead of a “program.” These amendments are fully supported, for example, at page 19, lines 10-23 of the present application. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Application 2004/0010756 (Hobbs) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,381,163 (Yokoyama). Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs in view of Yokoyama as applied to claims 1, 5, and 9 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,781,785 (Rowe). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

Regarding the obviousness rejection of independent claims 1, 5, and 9, it is admitted in the Office Action that the Hobbs reference does not teach claim 1’s display control portion that stores print data corresponding to a plurality of sheets of printout to the display data storage portion while offsetting the storage address for each sheet of print data, and presents printout for the plurality of sheets in parallel offset positions page by page based on data stored in the display data storage portion by the display control portion, or the corresponding steps of claims 5 and 9. However, it is contended that Yokoyama furnishes these claimed features, and that it would have been obvious to combine Hobbs and Yokoyama to yield the inventions of claims 1, 5, and 9.

Applicant disagrees, at least because Yokoyama does not teach or suggest storing print data corresponding to a plurality of sheets to be printed out, or displaying a plurality of sheets of

a printout simultaneously in a specific manner, as claimed. According to the claimed invention, print data for a plurality of sheets to be printed are stored in a display data storage portion, and the storage address for each sheet is offset. When a document is to be printed on more than one sheet of paper, a plurality of pages of the printout are displayed simultaneously, based on the print data, in parallel offset positions. This display arrangement is illustrated, for example, at Fig. 1 of the present application.

In contrast, Yokoyama teaches “the image data are stored in the storage unit 860 such that, as shown in FIG. 81, a predetermined number of picture elements laterally arranged in the upper left of the image data (8 picture elements in the case of FIG. 81) are stored in address 0. The next right 8 picture elements are stored in address 1, and the remaining picture elements are sequentially stored in the same manner to the 8 picture elements in the final column.”

Yokoyama col. 8:59-67. In other words, Yokoyama does not store print data corresponding to a *plurality of sheets* in its storage unit with the storage address of each sheet offset, as claimed, but only stores blocks of 8 *picture elements* of image data with the storage address of each block of 8 picture elements offset. Thus, the Office Action is incorrect in stating that Yokoyama teaches the claimed limitation “wherein the display control portion stores print data corresponding to a plurality of sheets of printout to the display data storage portion while offsetting the storage address for each sheet of print data.”

Moreover, as explained immediately above, Yokoyama teaches that one sheet of image data is stored in its storage unit. Yokoyama does not teach or even suggest storing data for, printing, or displaying a *plurality of sheets*, as claimed. Thus, Yokoyama does not disclose displaying a plurality of sheets of a printout simultaneously, as claimed. Yokoyama cannot

disclose this claim limitation, because Yokoyama utterly lacks a teaching or suggestion of processing a plurality of sheets of image data as a batch.

Neither Hobbs nor Yokoyama teaches or suggests claim 1's display control portion that stores print data corresponding to a plurality of sheets of printout to the display data storage portion while offsetting the storage address for each sheet of print data, and presents printout for the plurality of sheets in parallel offset positions page by page based on data stored in the display data storage portion by the display control portion, or the corresponding steps of claims 5 and 9. Therefore, any combination of Hobbs and Yokoyama, however made, would still be missing these claimed features, and it would not have been obvious to add these features to any Hobbs/Yokoyama combination to yield the invention of claim 1, 5, or 9.

Consequently, independent claims 1, 5, and 9 are patentable.

Regarding the obviousness rejection of dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12 based on Hobbs, Yokoyama and Rowe, the Rowe reference does not furnish the features of independent claims 1, 5, and 9, from which claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 depend, missing from Yokoyama and Hobbs. Therefore, any combination of Hobbs, Yokoyama, and Rowe, however made, would still be missing these claimed features, and it would not have been obvious to add these features to any Hobbs/Yokoyama/Rowe combination to yield the inventions of claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12.

Consequently, claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12 are patentable.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

Application No.: 10/790,870

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WDC99 1522596-1.064484.0015